GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2286
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2017
Restoration of Old Film Reels
Chavan Shri Ashok Shankarrao;Gaikwad Dr. Sunil Baliram;Gupta Shri Sudheer;Kirtikar Shri Gajanan Chandrakant;Mahato Shri Bidyut Baran;Radhakrishnan Shri T.;S.R. Shri Vijay Kumar

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that many old film reels has been destroyed;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
(c) whether the Government has recently launched a project to assess the condition of about 1,32,000 film reels at the National Film Archives of India (NFAI) and measures that need to be taken to prolong their life;
(d) if so, the details thereof along with the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;
(e) the time by which the project is likely to be completed; and
(f) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to make a rich film heritage available for the future generations?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING [COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)]

(a) & (b): National Film Archive of India (NFAI) was established in the year 1964 with the objective to trace, acquire and preserve the heritage of national cinema. By the time NFAI came into existence, many of the silent era films were lost and were not traceable. A large number of films made in the country before 1955 being on highly inflammable nitrate base, have already been destroyed and are no longer available. Most film producers tend to view film as commercial venture alone, much to the exclusion of the cultural aspect of cinema and have, therefore, not focused on its preservation needs. Also there is no legal compulsion on the part of the filmmakers to contribute by preserving their films for posterity.

(c) to (e): Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has launched a mission mode project namely 'National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM)' to restore, digitize and archive films and filmic material through National Film Archives of India. The scheme is envisaged at a total cost of Rs.597.41 Crore spread over 2014-15 to 2020-21. The following are the objectives of NFHM:-
? To undertake film condition assessment of the film collection and to ascertain the left over life of the film;
? Preventive conservation of 1,32,000 film reels;
? 2k/4k picture and sound restoration of 1050 land mark feature films and 960 short films of Indian cinema and recording of new picture and sound inter-negatives of each film;
? Digitization of 1050 feature films and 1200 short films;
? Construction of archival and preservation facilities for preservation of material restored under NFHM in dust free, low humidity, and low temperature conditions at NFAI campus, Pune; and
? Training workshops and courses in field of conservation, preservation and archiving in co-ordination with international agencies that are experts in this field.

(f): NFAI has been conducting Film Appreciation Course, which is aimed at exposing the best of Indian and International Cinema to Cinephiles and public at large. NFAI also conducts Film Preservation and Restoration Course to provide hands on practical training to cover all the gamut of film preservation and restoration sessions as well as preservation of filmic and ancillary material. State of the art library facility at NFAI premise with collection of more than 30,000 thousand books on various titles related to film and filmic culture for public usage. Government provides financial assistance for Research Fellowship, Audio Visual History, and Monographs to researchers and film lovers.